(c) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Power shortages, weak financial position of the utilities due to high Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses, distortion in the tariff structure, overstaffing in utilities, poor metering, billing and collection efficiencies are major problems which power sector is facing.

(c) The Government has launched following major initiatives to overcome the problems of the power sector:

(i) Accelerating capacity addition to eliminate shortages.

(ii) Completing electrification of rural areas through the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.

(iii) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programmes (APDRP) for assisting States in investment in distribution network for reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising reduction of cash losses through cash grants.

(iv) Emphasis on metering of feeders and supply to consumers for energy accounting and auditing for identifying location of high losses; Stringent legal provisions relating to theft of electricity.

(v) Implementation of energy conservation measures. Bureau of Energy Efficiency has been set up under the Energy Conservation Act.

(vi) Partnership for excellence programme for improving operation and maintenance practices and renovation and modernization for improving Plant Load Factor (PLF) for poorly performing thermal power stations in the country.

Heavy fees charged by private distribution companies

3152. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private distribution companies in the Capital are charging very heavy fees for transfer of names consequent upon the change in transfer of properties;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to simplify the transfer procedure and reduce the fees in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Distribution of power is regulated by the concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commission. Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has informed that *vide* their regulation dated 19th August, 2002 on Metering & Billing the Commission has prescribed the procedure for transfer of ownership of connection and advance consumption deposit on the basis of sanctioned load as per details given below:

(All figures in Rs./Kw)

Category	Approved rates
Domestic	600
Non-Domestic (single Phase)	1500
Non-Domestic (Three Phase)	1500
Industrial	1500
Agriculture	300

In case of transfer of ownership to the legal heir, no such deposit is charged.

New Power Tariff Policy

3153. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are preparing a new power tariff policy for the country;

(b) if so, does it not dilute the Electricity Act, 2003;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have scaled down the power generation target from 41,110 MW to 36,956 MW;